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**DUPAGE COUNTY**  
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## Waste cleanup to be done at Blackwell

By Lynn Van Matre  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

### 40-acre former landfill is facing a 5-month project

A \$2 million hazardous-waste cleanup at the site of a former landfill in Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville is scheduled to begin next week, DuPage County District Forest Preserve officials said.

The project, to begin July 21 on the one-time landfill known as Mt. Hoy, will take approximately five months and could affect some activities at the pop-

ular preserve, according to Joseph Benedict, interim director of environmental services for the district.

The work, done in compliance with an agreement between the Forest Preserve District and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, involves construction and installation of a system designed to limit the possibility

of landfill contaminants leaking into nearby groundwater, Benedict said.

The 40-acre landfill site was placed on the EPA's Superfund national priorities list of hazardous-waste sites in 1990, a decade after seepage of contaminated liquid from an area on the north slope of the dump-turned-recreational hill trig-

gered widespread concerns about environmental toxins.

After a five-year investigation, the EPA concluded in 1995 that the site and surrounding areas posed no health hazards to visitors, workers or nearby residents.

"You probably could classify Blackwell as the cleanest site on the Superfund list," Benedict

said.

However, EPA studies determined that contamination levels above the maximum allowable for safe drinking water were present in eight monitoring wells within 300 feet of the former landfill. Cleanup plans were set in motion last year.

According to Benedict, contaminants are primarily "a series of chemicals, including iron, sulfates and chlorides."

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